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# Panty Party helps victims of violence

By Josh Daughtery

Staff Writer

The first Panhellenic Panty Party brought together a large crowd of Greeks contributing donations for the Women's Domestic Violence Shelter of Murfreesboro and raising awareness of domestic violence.

Jennifer Galmish, senior elementary education major, said she thought the event was going to be very successful. Donating to the Women's Domestic Violence Shelter of Murfreesboro helps to better the community, she said.

"It's just now seven and we've already got a ton of donations," Galmish said after the event started.

Cassie Venable, junior elemeneducation major and Panhellenic Council president, said they did not set a specific goal regarding donations, but that they surpassed the turnout of people they thought they would have.

Venable said she expected around 50 people to come to the party. However, the event ended up having well over 120 guests 10 minutes after it began.

"I'm amazed," Venable said. "I can't believe the turnout and support we're getting."

Venable said she felt the event

was more than a success.

Jennifer Gibson, sophomore public relations major, said she was very surprised with the amount of people at the party.

"Everyone's participating, not just the girls," Gibson said. "The guys have contributed a lot."

Shelly Williamson, junior criminal justice major, said his fraternity, Kappa Alpha, donated around \$100 worth of toiletries. "Anytime you can reach out to

the community, it's a worthwhile event," Williamson said.

Kevin Gomila, freshman conindustry management

See Panty Party, 3



Photo by Chris Barstad | Photography Editor

**Debates** 

From left, Jennifer Galmish, senior, and Paige Kimbro, junior, of Alpha Chi Omega sort items donated to the Women's Domestic Violence Shelter of Murfreesboro during the sorority-sponsored Panty Party Monday night.

Tips to hel keep e-ma from beind overwhelm by spam:

– Do a fittle housecleanin everyday, del orten.

- Keep visits sites reguinin real and controlled the control to a mineria

to a spam e mail

-- Create a si account for s servicing to si like MySpace facebook to keep messaa tion filling ti

NTSU accoun

By Faith Franklin

released Tuesday.

President George W. Bush's

approval rating has dropped 10

percent in the last year, accord-

ing to the biannual MT Poll

The Poll shows that Bush's

"[Bush's unpopularity is] driv-

ment. "One is heath insurance,

because everyone knows someone

who doesn't have it, and two the

war in Iraq because people know

individuals that are fighting or

The poll shows that when

Bush won in 2004, Tennessee had

that have been killed."

approval rate in Tennessee fell to 32

Staff Writer

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Phishing: Bank of U.S. needs your account nu Male growth hormones available to the public \*\*GIRLS DONATE PANTIES FOR DOMEST My name is Cindy and I'm ready to chat. Earn 100k working from home, start today YOUR HARD DRIVE IS AT RISK, only \$10 Earn 100k working from home, start today Phishing: Paypal account number confirmation

# Spam invades campus e-mail

By Andy Harper

Campus News Editor

Best County | 1 to 50 of 10 of int Prov. Spot Lasts Com.

The Information Technology Department launched its new campus e-mail system last semester in an attempt to cure speed problems that occurred with the previous structure.

However, incidents of increased spam messages received through Pipeline e-mail have grown with the new system.

"Spamming has gone up by an order of magnitude in the last year," said Tim Brown, vice president for Information and Technology.

Although the rate of return for spammers is only 3 percent, the industry is a lucrative business, offering seminars on writing better spam and holding some of the most powerful computer systems, Brown said.

"It's a very low overhead, if they send out 1,000 messages, they will get 30 back," Brown said. "They have very powerful equipment, and their servers are just as good and sometimes better than ours. So it is not a problem to send out a massive amount of messages."

35 percent of its residents identi-

fy themselves as Republicans and

only 29 percent identified as

Democrats. The results this

spring show Tennesseans as 31

percent Republicans, 33 percent

Democrats and 22 percent

"It is interesting to see

Tennessee go from a formally

Independent.

The Pipeline e-mail system does have spam protection that is regularly updated.

"The problem is the stronger the spam control, the more likely an account will miss a legitimate message because it was classified as spam," Brown said.

There are two popular process of spamming, Brown said. The first is to search the internet on Web sites like Facebook and MySpace and obtain active e-mail accounts. The second is to use a machine that will lock onto a specific server, like MTSU, and send messages to randomly generated email addresses.

"It is ridiculous and annoying," said Sarah Scott, freshman undeclared. "I get about 20

The messages received range from homeloans, scholarship refinancing and discounts from various department stores.

"The worst is the breast augmentations and penis enlargement," said Jennifer Briggs, freshman history major.

While spam appears to be anywhere from a minor annoyance to a source of electronic frustration, spammers are protected by the

first amendme

A ban cann the governme ing without Larry Burriss teaches media

They can b to do," Burris with technolo guys will worl

The most e is to check y delete any uni "It doesn't

Burriss said. " a message, the With all the s tant e-mails w Another wa

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"Spammers more places "Trying to lim and won't sto will help." ◆

# heat up for SGA top spot By Michelle McCrary

Assistant News Editor

Change, student involvement in university activities and improving the quality of student life at MTSU were a few of the issues discussed at the Student Government Association's executive-candidate debate Monday night.

Current election commissioner Ben Hall said the debates were important for students to more information on candidates and to get people out to vote.

Candidates were introduced to the students by the position of office they were running for and were then given one minute and 30 seconds to answer questions asked by the moderator.

Ashley DeSabetino is the only candidate who is running unopposed in the upcoming SGA election for the position of Vice President of Administration and Public Affairs.

DeSabetino has been involved in SGA for the past two years and wants to make a connection between MTSU and the community.

"I would like to work with student organizations as well as SGA," DeSabetino said. "I want to generate more support for SGA and have everyone work together on events such as the 'Black.White.' event and other community service events."

### A need for change

All candidates spoke of a need for change within SGA and offered suggestions on how they would change the current image of SGA if elected to their position.

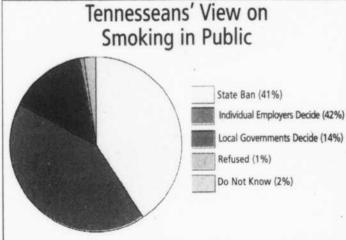
The two candidates running for the office of election commissioner spoke on how to improve SGA voter turnout.

Candidate Danny Bounds said all student organizations need to be included in working with SGA.

"[There are] over 300 student organizations, and we need to hit all of them," Bounds said. "These organizations have a diversity of people, and if you [visit] every single one of them, the students will feel like they have a voice instead of just seeing yard signs."

Candidate Brandon Reedy spoke on how to improve voter turnout and offered a possible solution to the problem.

"We need to contact college deans and department chairs to [have them] alert students on how to vote, where to vote, et cetera. We also need to form a student leadership council to let students' voices be heard on issues they think are important," Reedy said.



The MT Poll, completed earlier this week, reveales determinate statistics on the views of Tennessee residents on both a smoking ban and allotment of excess HOPE funds.

Graphic by Chet Overall | Staff Designer

#### Republican state and make a percent from last year's 42 percent. swing in the other direction," "On a national level there is an Wyatt said. "[Tennessee] first overall shift toward the political made a swing 25 years ago from a left," said Ken Blake, the poll's act-Democratic [state] to ing director and associate profes-Republican [state]."

sor of journalism. "Democrats Others issues, such as possible seem to be gaining ground." presidential candidates for the The Poll suggests that his 2008 elections, the Bush unpopularity is due to the war in Administration's plans for troops Iraq and the people's dissatisfacin Iraq, Bush's overall approval tion with the response to rating, minimum wage, smoking Hurricane Katrina. bans and the lottery surplus were

also reviewed by the poll. en by two things that impact the According to Blake one of the people of Tennessee directly," said most interesting issues discussed Robert Wyatt, founding director in the poll was the possibility of a of the poll and post-retirement smoking ban. faculty for the journalism depart-

"Many [MTSU] students can relate to the possibility of a state ban in the workplace [because] some students are smokers and many others work in smoking environments," Blake said.

Fourty-one percent of the state says smoking should be banned in workplaces but

another 42 percent feel that the decision of whether or not to allow smoking should rest in the hands of the employers. "[The ban] is pretty divided

Poll reports falling support for Bush

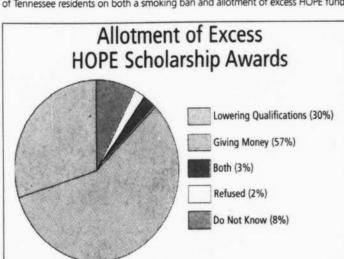
when you add in the pocketbook issue," Blake said. "It becomes a really complicated emotional debate and it is going to be an interesting showdown to watch, since students have a personal stake."

Although the opinion is split, according to Blake, the opinions of both sides are strong but neither side seems to have an advantage over the other.

In addition to the smoking ban, the issue of the Tennessee lottery scholarship surplus was discussed, another issue that could effect students.

According to the poll, "Tennesseans divide just about evenly on what to do with the more than \$300 million surplus that has accumulated in the state's lottery-funded scholarship program. "

Fourty-six percent of the state would spend it on awarding more scholarship money now, while 42 percent would rather hold on to the money in the reserve so the lottery program could keep running if there were ever to be a decline.



See Debates,2



Photo by Michelle McCrary | Assistant News Editor

Student body presidental candidates discussed issues affecting students Monday night

### **Debates:**

Continued from 1

### Vice President and Speaker of the Senate

Candidates running for the position of Vice President and Speaker of the Senate were asked questions in regards to how they would improve the quality of legislation being passed in the Senate, what new ideas they had to improve the SGA's image

Candidate Gretchen Jenkins said, after serving serve two consecutive semesters with SGA, she is disappointed in the lack of effective leadership and feels as if senators do not "represent their constituents or colleges and push legislation that they want pushed through."

"It's the student's opinion that matters. Every facet of campus should be represented in SGA, not just Greeks," Jenkins said.

Josh McKenzie, current SGA Executive Vice President and Speaker of the Senate, said he believes that six semesters of SGA experience allows him to understand what it takes to get things done.

"I know what it takes to get the right pieces of legislation passed," McKenzie said. "I like my job and what I do."

Jenkins believes "there should never be a quota of legislation to fill." She also offered suggestions on how to improve the quality of legislation passed in the senate.

"I want to implement committees from colleges and as well as the dean from that college, so it's easy to get ideas from [students] instead of going to senators," Jenkins said. "[Students] should not go directly to senators, because the goals of senators and goals of colleges might not be the same."

### Student body presidential

hopefuls
The four ca

The four candidates running for student body president were very vocal in expressing their platforms and ideas on how to improve student life at MTSU.

Presidential candidate Jonathan Taylor said there is a need for change, and it is time to take SGA back to the students.

"Students don't know what SGA does accept to plan road-rally [trips] and homecoming. Some students don't even know how to log onto the computer system to vote," Taylor said. "We [need to] bridge the gap between the students and SGA."

All student body presidential candidates spoke on the unimportance of having prior SGA experience in being able to hold the position of student body president.

Candidate Lora Hortert said prior experience should not be required "because SGA needs diversity. SGA represents all students and not just a few. If prior experience were needed, then that would be limiting the majority of the student body that needs to have their voice heard."

Candidates were asked to express a question that they would ask MTSU President Sidney McPhee.

Candidate Chassen Haynes wants to know why [MTSU is] the last lobbyist of the Tennessee Board of Regents.

"MTSU receives [the] lowest funding even though we are the largest undergraduate college in the state," Chassen said.

Taylor is prepared to combat the problem of student retention at MTSU.

"There are [large] numbers of students who enroll here and don't graduate for whatever reason. They don't make grades, meet financial requirements [they] or have children," Taylor said. "What can we do to raise [the] retention rate and see them through till the end?"

#### Budget cuts and appointing Senators

Candidates were also asked, if elected, what programs they would cut from the SGA budget.

Haynes said, if elected, he would cut the executive stipends.

"People get into executive positions just for the scholarships and free textbooks, and [we should] start here before cutting vital programs," Haynes said.

Taylor spoke of trimming "fat" from programs that are being run inefficiently. He also said he would keep those programs around but lower their budgets.

Wilder stated he would like to see more advertising for sporting events on campus and try to involve the Murfreesboro community and possibly corporate sponsors.

"There are lots of organizations who deserve representation that aren't getting the advertising they need," Wilder said, "We need to take pride in our university."

Hortert said she would like to increase the visibility of MTSU in the community and work with community businesses to get donations, in the hopes of decreasing funds taken from the state.

Student reaction

After the debate students stayed and spoke with candidates more in-depth about their platforms and ideas to change SGA and the university for the benefit of students.

Chris "Alfie" Rowan, a junior advertising major, said the most important thing he took away from the debate was being able to discern which candidate had a plan for change and which ones were just saying they had a plan but didn't know how to deliver that plan to students.

Rowan also said the student body needs to become more unified and not focus so much on being apart of different groups but instead focus on being the Blue Raiders.

"There are spots where we are unified, such as when we go to football games, but after the season is over, that unity is lost. We go back to our groups. We need to be the Blue Raiders, and if one of those candidates can do that, I will vote for them," Rowan said. •

# CRIME BRIEFS

Feb. 16 – 2:36 a.m. Judd/Sims Hall Lot DUI

Derek D. Parnell of Linden, was issued a DUI first offense, violation of implied consent and underage consumption of alcohol.

Feb. 16 – 3:20 a.m. Ezell Hall Lot DUI

William Ridley of Pikeville and Seth Smith of Newport were arrested for DUI and consumption of alcohol under 21. Chase Cook of Chattanooga was issued a stat citation for consumption of alcohol under 21.

Feb. 16 – 8:12 p.m.

Dyslexia Center

Subject said they smelled a chemical smell coming from the side of the building.

Feb. 16 – 11:30 p.m. Womack Lane Apt. A Traffic Keyzelle Thomas

Keyzelle Thomas of Blythewood, S.C., was issued a state citation for driving on a suspended drivers license and failure to obey traffic control device (stop sign).

Feb. 17 – 7:35 p.m. Davis Science Building Lot Theft

Subject requested a report be taken in reference to a stolen bike. Advised that it had been left in an area of Cyber Café, possibly by Gracy Hall.

Feb. 18 – 1:35 a.m. Miscellaneous Traffic

Drivers of a black BMW, a red Toyota Celica, and a white Nissan Maxima were issued citations for reckless driving because they were spinning doughnuts and sliding on ice and snow in the Greenhouse parking lot.

Feb. 18 – 4:02 a.m. Clement Hall Alcohol

Cory Staton of Greenbrier was issued a state citation for using a false ID to purchase or possess alcohol. John Greer of Springfield was issued a state citation for consumption of alcohol under 21.

Feb. 18 – 4:02 a.m. Clement Hall Alcohol

Jarryd Harris of Nashville was issued a state citation for consumption of alcohol under 21.

Feb. 18 – 2:06 p.m. James E. Walker Library Miscellaneous

Subject requested an officer in reference to someone printing off pornographic material in the EIC lab on the first floor. Units were unable to locate anyone.

Feb. 19 – 7:59 a.m. Recreation Center Miscellaneous Subject called and advised that the fire alarm was going off.

Feb. 19 – 9 a.m. Pittard Campus School Burglary

Complainant advised that a window leading to the cafeteria was broken and some items were missing and others had been moved around.

Feb. 19 – 4:19 p.m. Peck Hall Theft

Computer requests report for a stolen cell phone. Advised the phone was a silver Motorola Razr, last seen on the second floor of Peck Hall outside of room 218.

Feb. 19 – 8:11 p.m. Bell Street Lot Accident

Subject advised that she was involved in a minor accident and had backed into another parked vehicle in the Bell Street Lot. Feb. 20 – 10:23 a.m. Greek Row Vandalism

Subject called and requested an officer in reference to a vandalism report on the Sigma Chihouse.

Feb. 20 – 5:28 p.m. Judd Hall Sex Offenses Subject requested officer in regards to sexual harassment

Feb. 20 – 10:32 p.m. Davis Science Building Miscellaneous

and sexual battery

Subjects were joyriding in MTSU golf cart. Both subjects were issued dean's citations. Subjects stated they were just riding around and had gone to get some cold drinks.

Feb. 20 – 10:47 p.m. Sims Hall Burglary Subject had wallet stolen from his room.

Feb. 21 – 1:04 a.m.
Gore/Clement Lot
William Hennessy from Howell,
N.J. was issued a state citation for
simple possession of marijuana,
unlawful possession of drug
paraphernalia, possession of
alcohol under 21, and speeding
in a 15 mph zone.

Feb. 21 – 2:08 a.m.
Sims hall
Burglary
Subject called advising his cell

phone and laptop were stolen from his doom room on Feb. 19.

Feb. 21 – 3:30 a.m.

East Main St.

Drug Abuse
Robert Beckham of
Murfreesboro was issued a state
citation for unlawful possession
of drug paraphernalia and light
law violation.

# Senate focuses on service, SGA

By Clarence Plank

Sports Editor

The Faculty Senate met last Monday for a presentation by the Pedagogy Task Force and the group for Operation Helmet.

Operation Helmet is a grassroots operation in which citizens can buy the inserts for the helmets Marines wear. It was presented by Hilary Stallings, assistant to the dean of liberal arts.

Tony Johnston, president of the Faculty Senate, said that Operation Helmet's purpose is to keep soldiers from helmet injuries.

The inserts for the helmets are first purchased by citizens and then sent to the Marines that are deployed, Johnston said.

"The inserts do a better job of keeping the helmet off the soldiers' head, so that when there's some sort of accident or injury, like IED [improvised explosive device] explosion, the helmet doesn't bang the head and increase the injury," Johnston said.

The helmet upgrade kits are free of charge to the troops and future soldiers.

The inserts increase the comfort and stability of the helmets by keeping them out of the soldiers' eyes, as well as serve as protection from shock.

The Pedagogy Task Force was also presented to the senate and involved the teacher evaluation forms and campus constituents.

"They [PTF] were looking at the faculty evaluation forms that the students fill out in class," Johnston said. "The forms we use has been widely acknowledged by faculty members, as not been very beneficial."

The forms did not provide adequate information about faculty members and the Task Force discovered a more efficient evaluation to use on campus.

"Last spring they have gotten all their results and made recommendations to the provost, and they're presenting the report to the dean, chairs and faculty on campus," Johnston said. The Pedagogy Task Force con-

sists of two co-directors, Wendy Koenig and Michael Fleming. Koenig is an assistant professor of art and Fleming is an assistant professor of recording industry.

The council also replaced a seat

The council also replaced a seat on the Steering and Liaison Committees. Nancy Kelker, associate professor of art, succeeded Robb McDaniel, associate professor of political science, on the committee.

Johnston said that McDaniel asked for a replacement.

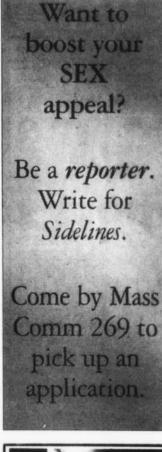
"He simply didn't have time to continue," Johnston said. "He was actually teaching more than he had planned at the beginning of the year."

McDaniel is still on the Senate, but now has less responsibility.

"If they ask to be taken off the committee we try to accommodate them," Johnson said.

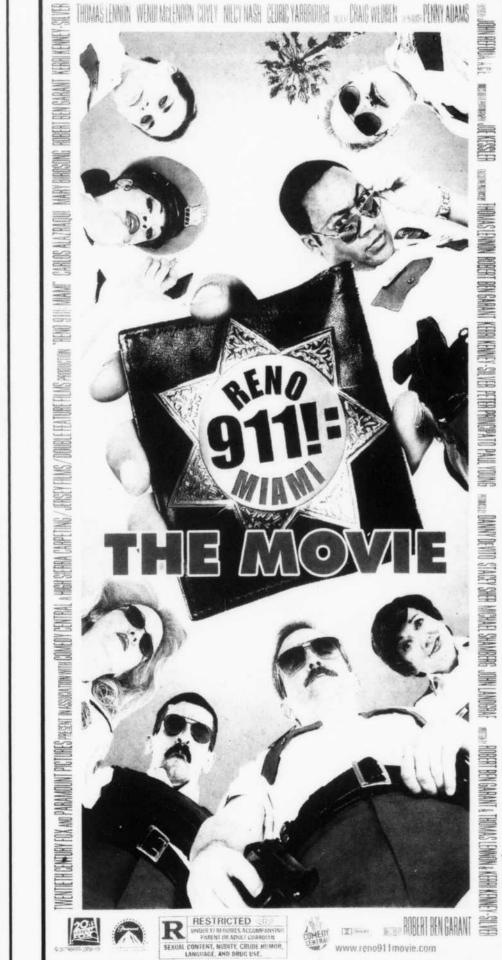
The Faculty Senate voted not to support the SGA resolution to institute two to four dead periods a semester.

"I don't know any practical way that it could happen and that's the problem that we all have expressed," Johnston said. "It sounds like a good idea, but I don't know how to do it." •





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Continued from 1

major, said he thinks it would be a good event to have every year.

"Based on this turnout, it would be a shame if we didn't do it again," said Sunny Schartau, junior public relations major

and Panhellenic Council vice president. Josh McKenzie, junior electronic media communications major, said he believes the event is a good thing to get started and

hopes it will grow larger over the years.

"Greek life does a lot of amazing things throughout Middle Tennessee," McKenzie said. McKenzie said this shows Panhellenic Council is moving to help people outside the Greek community.

"I think [domestic violence] is a cause that gets over looked a lot," said Gretchen Jenkins, junior political science major. "I'm

really glad we're focusing on this." Schartau said she thinks the Panty Party

really got the point across concerning domestic violence, and people like to give and help out no matter who you are.

"People aren't that different from each other, so it never hurts to help one another," Schartau said.

According to Venable, around 3,000 items were donated to the Women's Domestic Violence Shelter of Murfreesboro by the end of the night. •

# MTSU obtains grant program

By Faith Franklin

Staff Writer

National The Science Foundation grant was awarded to MTSU in the amount of \$789,049 to fund the Energy, Earth, and Civilization Project that will work with fifth through eighth grade students and their teachers.

The program is geared toward "trying to find school kids who have a hidden scientist in them," said Kim Sadler, one of the program's directors. "Perhaps they don't have the environment that will nurture them."

The participating schools and organizations include Woodbury Grammar School, Central Middle School, Mitchell-Neilson Elementary School and the Smyrna Boys and Girls Club.

"I am excited about the grant because it will make a difference in middle school students' interest in math and science," said Linda Gilbert, associate professor for educational leadership and one of program's directors.

The project's goal is to increase student interest in science and math while helping them to apply the knowledge they acquire in the real world. The key to obtaining the goal is collaboration between the informal science activities that take place outside of school and the formal instruction inside the school.

Sadler said the program will "provide an out of school experience that will nurture a love of science and math in a non-traditional way."

The program will also help students "see [practical] applications from a person who uses science and math in the real world,"

Gilbert said. "[For example,] they will see the link between geology and the way buildings are built. and connect it to the real world and why it is important."

Hands on learning experiences will be available to 150 students during the school year, as well as a two-week summer camp and MTSU's Expanding Your Horizons event for the first two years of the grant.

While the students are undergoing the initiative, the project will also offer professional development sessions to 24 teachers along with parent-child meetings in order to help families engage in science activities that are both fun and educational.

The program does not just benefit the students; it can also positively affect MTSU and the community.

MTSU will be positively affected because the program can "serve as a feeder program. [We can] get the kids to think about higher education," said Sadler, who is also an assistant professor for biology and the assistant director for environmental education. It is also "a good indirect recruiting tool," she said.

Sadler also said the community will benefit because the program will help students to become better citizens and more informed decision makers because they "will be able to make science connections in their lives."

Research will be collected in the third year of the program to determine if the project met its goals.

MTSU's proposal was chosen out of 148 applications and is one of 16 recipients across the country for the Academy of Young Scientists initiative.

# STUDENT NOMINATION

**OUTSTANDING TEACHER AWARDS** 2006-2007

SIDELINES

I Nominate		
	(Please Print Full Name of Instructor)	
from		
	(Department of Nominee)	

for a

### 2006-2007 Outstanding Teacher Award

(Nominees must be full-time faculty members to be eligible) (Please type or print clearly)

Printed name of Nominator\_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Nominator

### Please return this ballot to:

Office of Executive Vice President and Provost, 111 Cope Administration Building Murfreesboro, TN 37132

Deadline

Monday, March 12, 2007

### Applications are now being accepted for MTSU's **Student Recognition Awards**

This university-wide awards program pay tribute to four undergraduate students honored for exemplary character and achievements in scholarship, leadership and service.

A President's Award A

Provost's Award

A Robert C. LaLance, Jr. Achievement Award A

☆ Community Service Award ☆

### **Application Deadline is** March 2

For more information, contact:

Dr. Deana Raffo Director of Leadership Development Keathley University Center 306 (615)-898-5786 draffo@mtsu.edu

For more information, including criteria and applications, please visit www.mtsu.edu/~mtleader

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# WALKER LIBRARY REVIEW

9:00 AM TUESDAY **KUC THEATRE FEBRUARY 27** 

### MT90 Evening Extended School Program

**Evening Care for Children** Kindergarden through 8th grade 923 E. Lytle Street (behind Bell Street parking lot)

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www.mtsu.edu/eesp Monday-Thursday 3:00-9:30

434.00 weekly, first child 10.00 daily, first child \*20.00 registration fee

\$20.00 weekly, additional children \$8.00 daily. additional children

Activities:

homework help art, science, music, ect. activities hemed/seasonal projects

special guests and activites qualified teachers

# ()PINIONS

From the Editorial Board

### Passionate sex comes from smarts not faith

According to Jeff Patton, the only type of good, healthy sex is "hot, passionate Biblical sex." A type of sex, which if accepted by the masses, would leave the entertaining "right of passage for college students, high-schoolers, even middle-schoolers" in the dust.

With the outcries of abstinence as the know all, be all and end all of sexual safety, it seems the children are not getting a comprehensible sexual education.

True, a seventh-grader with a condom is probably unaware of the consequences of sexual practices, but this is because our society has failed to teach him. The young have been deprived of education that could lead to a successful, mature relationship and great sex life.

The fact of the matter is, a college student feels "guilt, shame and regret" is because hindsight is 20-20. Children who participate in sexual practices and do not know proper procedures of safety and pleasure should feel guilt, for potential putting themselves and their partner in danger; shame, for possible poor performance; and regret, for a possibly meaningless one-night-stand.

Instead, replace those feelings and immaturity with knowledge and growth. Teach middle school students about safe sex practices, which means introducing them to contraception. For example, as "Never Been Kissed" as the lesson is, putting a condom on a banana helps teach young men the proper fit, because if applied wrong, the tiniest little prick can rupture the rubber.

Likewise, women should learn about all the varieties of contraception available: birth control, diaphragm and the female condom - same rules as male condoms apply. The major taboo issue among women's sexual practices would be the morning-after pill. This pulls in the issue on sanctity of life, abortion and religion, which lands us back at square-one.

The end result is the question of whether a comprehensible sexual education raises a problem with promiscuity. If so, what gender's promiscuity is under fire? With male enhancement products, like Viagra, advertised everywhere, men are certainly not the targets. To quote Margaret Cho, "Isn't it easier to leave the bullets out of the gun, than avoid getting shot?"

### Letter to the Editor Put an end to hatred based on ideology

To the Editor:

I must admit I was quite surprised with Christin Pepple's column: "Partisan politics promote indecision," [Feb. 19]. I was not too terribly impressed with her early work, but this recent column is the best I have read in your paper so far.

Pepple's thesis is that the division within our current regime will lead to stagnation and, with that, disastrous consequences. I agree with her, but likewise, think that the divisions in our government only reflect the growing divide in the nation as a

This larger division can be seen on the microcosm within your Opinions section with Michael O'Flinn's rebuttal of Matthew Hurtt ["People who deserve aid not 'stealing," Feb. 19]. Hurtt, who by evidence of his columns, is a confused oconservative," decided to ponder the age-old debate of liberalism versus socialism - I am speaking in a more economic, classical sense ["Socialist rule allows 'legal plunder," Feb. 15].

Hurtt's argument had obvious flaws in it, and addressing them would not have proven too difficult - and should not be for a major in sociology. Did O'Flinn logically argue against the many contradictions within Hurtt's piece? No, he did not. He simply wrote an ad hominem attack against Hurtt.

It is irrelevant to the matter at hand if you agree or disagree with what Hurtt or O'Flinn wrote. What is important for the reader to note: is that a weak, quasi-illogical argument was not effectively refuted with a strong, logical argument. It was addressed with an even more illogical and ethically suspect ad

Is this the mechanics by which civility is to be obtained in our society? Is this our precious "democracy" in action?

It is clearly obvious that the people most Americans truly hate are, in fact, other Americans. They are not hated for superficial, cosmetic reasons as much anymore, such as race; this new era of hatred is one of ideology.

O'Flinn's rebuttal is a perfect example of the breakdown of civility that accompanies such rampant hatred. How can a nation filled with such self-hatred stand at all? Why should these people who can not stand one another be forced to live together? What is really the point of this Republic anymore?

Maybe anarchy, and, with it, civil war, should spread from Iraq to the United States. Maybe that was always the logical conclusion of our "culture war" Perhaps Romulus again needs to kill his brother Remus.

Nick Zamudio Junior, undeclared

### Correction

Last Thursday, the article "HOPE retention rates improving" was misleading. The study revealed that 75 percent of students who earned the scholarship in 2004 will lose it by graduation this year. Also, the words "lose" and "losing" were misspelled throughout. Sidelines regrets these errors.

Additionally, anyone interested in copy editing should come by Mass Comm Room 269 to apply.



PHC makes light of domestic violence

One Vagina for

Lady Liberty

Fortunately, we are in a time of social progress where racism is regarded as a despicable plague in American culture. In addition, the efforts made by feminist to end sexism have had successful advances. However, gender inequality has not achieved similar public shame.

Past social progress has provided the current illusion of tranquility for young women and men who believe that there is no longer a need for feminism.

This leads the privileged to project feminist issues as illegitimate political concerns and feminist activism as nothing more than a public spectacle. Reason leads a person to believe that if they do not see the problem then there is not a real problem.

Men are able to delude themselves with this apathy because the political systems continue to be dominated by men. As it goes, the fish is the last one to know of the ocean. Women are able to delude themselves that feminist issues are no longer important because they simply subscribe to the very messages created by privileged oppressors as well as systematically benefiting from the hard work of feminist from the past.

Feminist issues are often regarded as frivolous pursuits because sexism itself is largely still socially acceptable by both women

A recent example of how women's issues are perceived with frivolous concern was the decision by the Greek Panhellenic Council to host a so-called charitable event named "Panty Party for the Murfreesboro Domestic Violence Shelter." Naming the charity event "Panty Party" instantly creates an image in my mind of a house on Greek row with drunk frat boys running around wearing bras on their heads.

The name is a blatant mockery of the mostly women. At one time in our demo- Party" for a homeless center or the Red

Liz Estes Contributing Columnist cratic republic women could be legally beaten by their husbands. The term domestic violence was largely created by feminist to demonstrate that the violence, sexual

assault and murders of women by their partners is a legitimate crime worthy of punishment by law. Using the gender specific term 'panty' indicates that they are aware that domestic violence largely affects women, but also demonstrates how this charitable event is not a serious enough cause to warrant an altruistic respectable name. The name sexualizes the female undergarments and repre-

sents how women's clothing, women's bodies and violence upon women's bodies is inconsequential, therefore jokes are permissible at all times. I also keep imagining some sorority girl thinking to herself that she could just

donate her unused Victoria's Secret gift card

while thinking she has done her part. The Greeks pontificate that their so-called volunteerism is not taken seriously as genuine community concern or true charity. The name of this event demonstrates this obviously coy therefore superficial regard of this criminal violence and disrespect the honorable work of the Domestic Violence shelter.

"Panty Party" represents the sexist attitudes that feminist issues and violence against women are still regarded as trivial. It seriousness of this violent issue that affects begs me to ask, would they have a "Panty

Cross? Both charitable organizations contribute the same efforts that the Domestic Violence shelter performs for families such as providing food, housing, safety and support for those escaping from domestic violence.

I called the shelter to find out what they really need because most women would agree with me that receiving new panties and bras would be the last thing on their minds after such a traumatic event. I also think that most women would rather buy their own underwear because it is such a personal, private item.

The volunteer that I spoke with said that toiletries, bath linens, school supplies and children's toys are what are needed most. Time-dated food such as milk and bread are especially important because it is difficult for the shelter to keep these items in stock. The shelter is teamed up with a few local thrift stores to provide clothing vouchers for the women to shop on their own. Donating panties, though helpful, I was informed, is not an important item to stock up on nor does it solve any immediate needs for a displaced family.

I want to thank the Greek Panhellenic Council for providing an excellent example of the sexism still exists, as well as the attitude that women's issues are trivial. I would like to express concern to the administration that governs this group directly: is this image of insincere concern and flagrant sexism a standard to promote?

The women that are brave enough to escape domestic violence have support because of the charitable work, concern and efforts of feminist activism. The survivors of domestic violence, their children, and the volunteers for the shelter deserve respect.

Liz Estes is a senior English major and has a B.A. in philosophy. She can be reached at

# Southern successes showcase progress

Modern-day Confederate supporters routinely comment that "the South will rise again." In fact, an entire niche of neo-Confederate literature exists to support this argument; however, it seems that these authors and supporters of a risen Confederacy have ignored the fact that the South has already risen.

Not in the sense that slavery will once again darken the history of our great nation or that a pseudo-Confederate government will come into existence, but there are many facts that would support the aforementioned position.

After the horrors of Northernimposed Reconstruction efforts in the South, the Southern economy and culture trailed advancements by the North by at least twenty years. Southern governments and societies were virtually destroyed by capitalist Northern investors looking to make a quick buck.

Rising from the remnants 130 years later, the Southern political atmosphere and economy are the strongest in the nation.

Ten presidents since the War Between the States have come from the South. In fact, Abraham Lincoln was born and raised in Kentucky. Presidential elections over the course of the last quar-



ter-century have turned their attention to the South as an important percentage of the electorate. In 2000 and 2004, the South decided that George W. Bush would serve as president.

Economically, the South has prospered over the course of the last century. More and more global industries are moving headquarters and significant portions of their companies to the South. The most notable of these industry relocations are those in the automobile industry, which has contributed to the creation of thousands of jobs in the Middle Tennessee area alone in the past 20 years.

Other facets of economic development include the acrossthe-board low tax rate among southern states. Several Southern states have no state income tax at all, while those states that do tax their residents at a significantly lower percentage than states in the North or out West. Northerners routinely move to

the South in an attempt to sabotage the tax structure in order to create a pseudo-Northern atmosphere. Want proof? Take a look at the Rutherford Neighborhood Alliance and see where its members lived before moving here.

Some detractors of Southern success note that the War Between the States constituted treason against the United States. For two reasons, this argument is fallacious:

Thomas Jefferson wrote, "That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

Secession, an act that found favor among many of our Founding Fathers, is not considered treasonous, according to the Declaration of Independence.

Secondly, if one followed the logic of those who argue the South committed treason, then the actions of the Founding during Fathers the Revolutionary War were also treasonous. In fact, it was Benjamin Franklin who noted, "We must hang together, or surely we shall all hang separately."

The dictionary definition of the word treason suggests a violent act to overthrow one's government. Southern states passed resolutions of secession in their respective state legislatures. If passing such resolutions were treasonous, Democrats in the House and Senate today would all be imprisoned for their treasonous non-binding resolutions on the War in Iraq.

The point is, people on both sides of this issue are misguided. As previously stated, those dogmatic Dixie defenders who dream of a distant future where the South once again displays its decadence cannot see that Southern success is now.

Not only that, but those detractors of Dixie who look upon the South with such disdain do not recognize that Southern success has already come about in the ways previously mentioned.

The South will continue to prosper, and soon every American will sing, "I wish I was in Dixie, Hooray! Hooray!"

Matthew Hurtt is a junior liberal arts major and can be reached at mch2x@mtsu.edu.

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# FEATURES

# 'Hot, passionate biblical sex'

# Christian 'sexpert' stresses monogamy, commitment

By Becca Cook

Staff Writer

Many people would love to consider themselves a sex expert. There are very few, though, that can actually call themselves one.

For Jeff Patton, the name came from an unexpected source: a religious organization on a college campus.

Patton, a teaching pastor at Fellowship Bible Church in Murfreesboro, has been speaking about sex to college students for almost 20 years. His nickname, "the Sexpert," came about when he was speaking at the University of Kentucky.

"I was speaking at the Campus Crusade for Christ meeting," Patton says, "when they promoted my speaking engagement. They came up with the name 'Sexpert' to describe who I was. From that point on, it stuck. I took a poster home to show my wife, and she laughed about it."

Patton will be speaking at the weekly Cru meeting on campus about love, sex and relationships.

"I'll be asking several questions and talking about who created sex," Patton says. "I'll also be talking about the three purposes of sex and the consequences of sex outside of marriage."

Patton became a Christian while in college at East Carolina University.

"I came to Christ as a sophomore playing football for East Carolina. From that point on, I never had sex again until I was married," Patton says.

The decision not to have sex was never easy, but Patton gives all the credit to his faith on says. "Everyone does what they accomplishing it.

"I understand that, unless you have some convictions about what is true and right, it's hard [to abstain from sex], and you won't make that choice," Patton says. "A lot of the time I hear guilt, shame and regret from college students, but no one talks about it. All they talk about is how great sex is."

You won't find a cookie cutter version of sex in Patton's talk. He's not afraid to talk about orgasms or erections, or to talk about sex in a way that's frank and uninhibited.

"God designed for sex to be a beautiful gift," he says. "He made sex, so he knows what orgasms are; he knows what body parts are. He doesn't blush when we enjoy our lifetime partner in marriage.

wholeheartedly believes that sex is God's creation, but he thinks society has misconstrued its true purpose. Instead, sex has become entertainment, a right of passage for college students, high-schoolers, even middle-schoolers.

"I think that sex sells in our culture," Patton says. "It speaks a language we all understand. However, I think our culture has sold sex short. We talk a lot about sex in our culture. Everywhere you go, it's there in your face."

To Patton, today's culture has allowed too much interpretation of the definition of "right" and "wrong." Relativism prevails, giving people too much wiggle-room for deciding the right path.

"Relativism, meaning there are no rights or wrongs, is key in our culture today," Patton feel is right in their own eyes. There's no absolute truth. But even though people say they believe that, that's not how they'd like to be treated. People think that, if they think [something is | right, then it's right for them. But if I walk in your house and steal your TV, you're gonna start screaming."

Patton has been hitting the road for half of his life to speak to college students about the biblical perspective of sex.

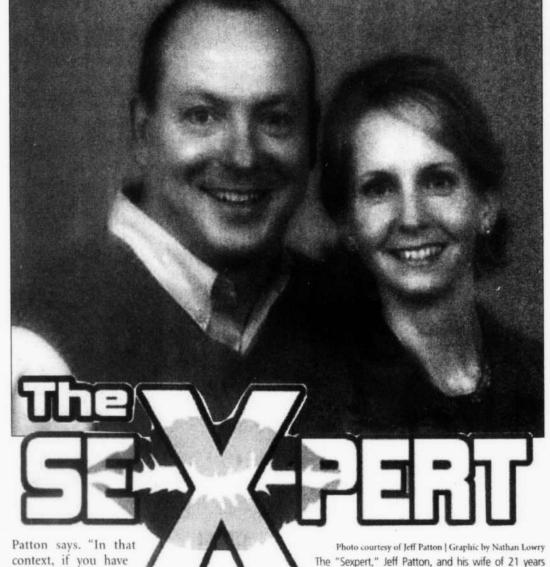
"God has been deemed by our culture as a big 'no-no' on sex," Patton says. "I think hot, passionate biblical sex the way scripture describes it is certainly the best sex. I think college students are being sold short and are making choices that will ultimately destroy their lives. I love to speak on it in biblical terms because no one else is willing to."

The never-ending debate over the need for sex education in schools continues to gain steam. According to Patton, though, the growing pervasiveness of sex is at the root of society's problem.

"Our culture says that if you feel like having sex, go ahead. Pass out condoms to middleschoolers and even elementary schoolers. In the last 30 to 40 years, people have decided that, with sex, you do what you feel; and yet, they haven't talked about the consequences."

To Patton, truly safe sex only comes with a monogamous, lifetime relationship - like the one he has with his wife of 21 years, the kind of sex "God truly intended."

"God intended for pleasure with one man, one woman,"



sex with one [person] for a lifetime, you will never get a sexually transmitted disease. Consequences only come with going outside the nature of sex's

design." Although images of sex are everywhere - everywhere we turn, it seems - Patton believes the "hottest" sex isn't commercialized or in-your-face.

"I am proposing that the best, hottest sex in the world is with one man and one woman in a lifelong relationship. It's free of guilt, shame, baggage, worry,

consequences and you learn each other. I've been married 21 years next June, and I'm telling you that getting to learn a woman that intamately is absolutely mind-boggling."

Jeff Mackie, a senior organizational communication major, has heard Patton speak before.

"I think he is an incredible speaker who can relate to you whoever you are," Mackie says. "He is motivating and very humorous."

Mackie and his team put together the Cru weekly meeting and are excited about Patton coming to speak.

exemplify what Patton believes is God's true design: a

lifelong, monogamous relationship.

"The meeting is going to have a really fun atmosphere," Mackie says. "We'll have videos, question and answer time for Patton and even some cool things to give away to visitors who come.'

"The Sexpert" will speak Feb. 22 at 8 p.m. in the Learning Resource Center Room 221. •

# Lights, camera, action MTSU alumnus in charge of red carpet

By Rangebar Merani

Staff Writer

From a small-town lifestyle in Garry Hood Tennessee, emerged into the world of lights, cameras and action. He remains in Franklin, hopping on a plane every time he's needed in Los Angeles.

And Hood's red carpet expertise is in high-demand.

An MTSU alumnus, Hood will be working as the Head Stage Manager for the 79th annual Academy Awards this Sunday at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood.

Hood has worked on over 20 Academy Award shows and has over 30 years of production experience. He has worked as a stage manager for almost every major television and live event produced in the United States and abroad.

"As a stage manager, I'm basically in charge of anything and everything that happens on stage," Hood says. "The scenery, the moving of scenery, rehearsal, the lights, the staging - basically taking all the dreams and wishes of the producers and directors and make them all happen."

Not only has Hood worked with the Academy Awards, he's contributed to the Emmy Awards, Tony Awards, Grammy Awards, MTV Movie Awards, BET Awards and the CMA Awards in Nashville.

"Nowadays, I do more live shows," Hood says. "That's the other fun part, the adrenaline you get doing a live show. You get the rehearsal time and everything, and then boom, you get to go live on the air and do it."

Hood has also worked on events other than award shows such as the opening and closing ceremonies for the Olympics, Super Bowl halftime shows and even presidential inaugurations. "I think I've probably

worked with most everybody you can imagine, be it an actor or a musician," Hood says. "I've done every inauguration since Reagan and I've been able to meet and spend time with those presidents. Kings and queens, I've done a lot in Europe."

Hood, Murfreesboro native, graduated from MTSU in 1977 with a degree Mass Communications. He now lives in Franklin and still comes down to Murfreesboro to visit his parents or to stop by campus for a football game or to talk to a class.

"MTSU is a great school. I'm very proud to say that I attended there and graduated there," Hood says. "The professors and the department were able to give real world experience which made for great training and great education. I was a manager for the basketball team and I recorded the practices and the games. I had a wonderful experience at MTSU."

Lately, Hood has been hard at work getting everything set up for this year's Academy Awards. Whenever he's needed in Los Angeles, he just hops on the next flight out.

"It takes lot of preparation, a lot of meetings, a lot working on the script and many rundowns to prepare and get ready to go on camera," says Hood. "I have a team of 12 other stage managers with me to help execute everything." He may be busy

with the Academy Awards, but Hood also runs his own television and live event production company called Hood Productions.

> does he work with major clients, but he also does work for independent

Not only

clients trying to put on a show or an event. "With

particular position production, I get [face-time] with everybody," Hood says. "I'm talking to the electricians, producers, directors, the stars, everybody. All that information has to flow through me and then I pass it on to everyone else. It's a great job, a real people job and that's the best part." ◆

Photo by Matthew Adair | Production Manager

# Nearly horoscopes

March 21 - April 19

It doesn't matter that you cried. Or that they laughed at you when you cried. Or that your crying turned into a full on tantrum. None of this ringing a bell? It will soon.

> Taurus April 20 - May 20

You know that new, really annoying song "What Goes Around Comes Around" by Justin Timberlake? Well, rumor has it that you were his divine inspiration. It's going to come back around, all right, and hard.

> Gemini May 21 - June 21

Just like your mom used to tell you, always reach for the stars. Just remember that the stars are trillions of miles away. It's only a metaphor, and you'll probably never reach them.

Cancer

June 22 - July 22 Drive your car with caution this week, because one of

two things will happen: you'll tun over an animal - could be a squirrel, could be an innocent puppy - or you'll get a DUI - avoiding alcohol von't help, they'll slap one on you

regardless. Maybe the best advice is to stay indoor or on a bike.

> Leo July 23 - August 22

You will find the love of your life this week.

Fireworks will go off, trumpets will sound and two hearts will magically become one. By next week, though, he or she will be gone - either that or it turns out your love is really a 70-year-old postal worker named Steve. How did you not see that one coming?

August 23 - Sept. 22 This week, you'll rediscover your favorite old Hanson CD. MmmBop yourself

crazy, but once you tire your-

self out, go back and listen to the lyrics carefully. Replay them backwards if necessary. You're bound to uncover Satanic messages. No wonder you've been so off all these years.

Sept. 23 - Oct. 23 You know what happened to Anna icole Smith? Well, you're in danger of suffering a very similar fate. It's completely avoidable, though, just make sure to steer clear of anything Anna Nicole Smith-ish. Should be easy - no drugs, romancing 90-year-olds, breast augmentation or clown makeup.

> Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 21

Valentine's Day has come and gone, so emerge from seclusion. Throw away the chocolates and ice cream, the cheesy romantic movies and mountains of balled-up tissues scattered around your bedroom. It's time to move on. Or, you know, time to switch to low-fat ice cream and kung-fu movies.

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

We all know that fortune cookies contain ancient wisdom. Sometime this week, gorge yourself full of them. If you can eat 100 cookies, each of the well-

Capricom Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

This week, you'll be invited to join a Facebook group called "People who hate people who can't keep their hand down in class." You'll be flattered by the invite, but beware - it was created in your honor. Don't raise your hand just to hear your own voice, don't regurgitate answers in the book and pass them off as your own "bril-

liance" and don't chase the professor out of the room in hopes of getting to know him/her better.

wishes they contain will come true.

Aquarius Jan. 20 - Feb. 18 Britney Spears looks pretty crappy. Admit it. Sometime

this week, a very persuasive stranger will hand you some clippers and convince you to follow in her footsteps. Avoid strangers with clippers at all costs.

Pisces

Feb. 19 - March 20

Fortune will smile upon you. It'll smile upon you in that passive-aggressive, annoying way that Fortune smiles, though, and you'll know it's only trying to be nice.

# SPORTS

# MT seeks end to four-game skid against Troy

By Wesley Mize

Staff Writer

The Blue Raiders basketball team looks to end its four-game losing streak on Thursday at Troy.

The Trojans beat Middle by a score of 71-57 in January.

MT led that game at halftime but let the lead slip away in the second half.

"We were up by eight the last time we played them and had a couple chances to stop them, but we gave up offensively on rebounds," said Blue Raiders head coach Kermit Davis. "We can't give them second opportunities to score if we want to beat them this time."

The Trojans (11-16, 6-10) have five players that average double figures in scoring.

O'Darien Basset leads the team with 14.9 points per game, but according to Davis, several players on the Trojan roster are capable of putting up impressive offensive numbers.

"They've got six guys that are capable of scoring 20 points," Davis said. "It's really difficult to prepare for them because they are all so good. Hopefully we'll be able to tell early on who's hitting for them and we'll be able to make the necessary adjustments."

Boo Ramsey is one of the potential 20 point scorers that Davis refers to.

Ramsey averages 11 points per game, but his ability to score from the perimeter is what makes him a dangerous offensive weapon.

"The last time we played them, we spent the whole time trying to hold our lead only to have Ramsey give them the lead by himself," Davis said. "He has unlimited range so we have to make sure not to give him an open look no matter how far away from the

basket he is."

The Blue Raiders (12-15, 7-9) were outrebounded by 11 in their last meeting with Trov.

Troy averages five less rebounds than its opponents per game for the season.

"Troy doesn't out-rebound many teams, yet they out-rebounded us big time," Davis said. "When you give that good of an offensive team so many chances to score, it's nearly impossible to win. We have to limit their chances, otherwise they'll make us pay for it."

The Blue Raiders currently sit in fourth place in the Sun Belt eastern division standings.

Troy is last in the East but only one game behind MT.

This game will make a major impact on Middle's seed in the upcoming conference tournament.

"We can finish fourth, or we could finish 12th in our league," Davis said. "There are several other teams that can do the same thing. It is Troy's senior night, so the fans should be pretty loud and into the game. It's a big game for us. We are really going to have to play our best to win the game."

Middle has only one regular season game remaining after the Troy game.

The coaching staff is making sure the Blue Raiders take care of business in the regular season before they shift their focus to the tournament.

"We don't even talk about the tournament," Davis said. "We just try to get better everyday in practice. We can't worry about where we're going to play or what our seed will be in the tournament because the league is so even, and teams will be jumping positions in the last couple of games." This is the fifth meeting between Troy and MT. The Blue Raiders are currently 2-2 against Troy. Troy won their previous meeting 71-57 in Murfreesboro.

Saturday's game against FAU has seeding implications with Middle Tennessee possible claiming the fourth seed in the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

The Owls are currently in a three-way tie with North Texas and Arkansas State for fourth in the SBC.

MT came from behind to beat the Owls 72-68 earlier in the season in Boca Raton considering the Owls held a halftime lead.

Carlos Monroe, DeAndre Rice and Paul Graham all scored double digits against the Raiders, with the Owls hitting 37 percent of their field goals. MT hit 62 percent from their field goals in the game.

Kevin Kanaskie moved into 10th place above former Raider Jimmy Martin on the all-time assist list with 236. He needs on 14 more to tie Greg Joyner for ninth place. Kanaskie currently has 162 assists on the season, which highest single-season total with the Raiders.

Desmond Yates scored 21 points against FIU for his fourth 20 point game of his career. Yates scored 23 points against ASU on back on Jan. 17.

The Blue Raiders will be spending their time trying to contain Monroe, Rice and Graham considering the Raiders have been struggling.

The Blue Raiders will try to avoid being jumped by Troy on Thursday and hopefully continue to knock-off the remaining at the end of their schedule with FAU.

Tip-off for the FAU game is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Saturday night. ◆

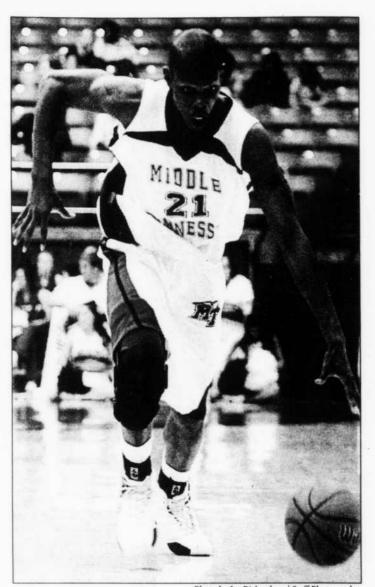


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer Freshman Donaries Hair runs down the court on a break-away.

### Ladies want to end season undefeated

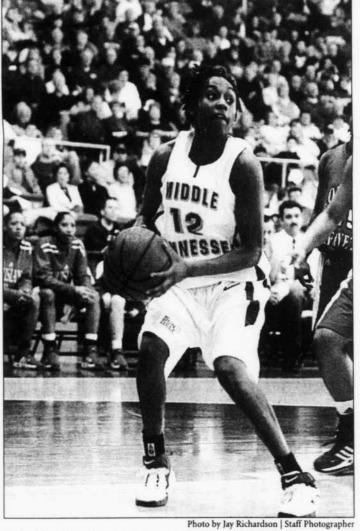


Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer Junior Starr Orr gets set to take a shot against Louisiana-Lafayette earlier this season. MT has swept the Ragin' Cajuns in confernce play. By Cody Gibson
Staff Writer

The last week of the regular season holds a lot of questions for the Lady Raiders. Can they run the table, and finish the Sun Belt season undefeated? Where will the Lady Raiders be playing come tournament time?

Yet, the biggest obstacle to overcome for the Blue Raiders is not an opponent. The Lady Raiders must face the pressure that goes with being ranked the highest in school history and carrying a winning streak into the final week of the season.

Coach Rick Insell believes that this week will go a long way in determining how this season ends.

"I think it is important that we win both of these games," Insell said. "Looking at the next two games, we should win both of them. Our players have done a good job of meeting the challenges put in front of them. We don't need to allow one of them to slip up and beat us. Right now, we are forcing the NCAA selection committee to look at us as a higher seed."

The Lady Raiders travel to Troy and face the Lady Trojans on Thursday night. The Lady Trojans are 12-14 on the season including a 5-11 record in the conference.

The Trojans, led offensively by Amy Lewis and Kylie Morrisy, are averaging around 15 points per game this season.

On the season, the team is averaging 61.7 points per game, while allowing 62.8. The Lady Trojans have been very strong shooting the ball, with a field goal percentage of over

43 percent.
Yet, they are averaging 17 turnovers per game, and that has been the key to their losing record.

The Lady Raiders should be able to continue their pressing ways, and force even

more turnovers.
Saturday, Middle Tennessee
hosts Florida Atlantic for their

final game of the regular season. Saturday is senior day, and the team will honor Chrissy Givens, Krystle Horton, Whitney Tate and Carden Cobb.

Florida Atlantic has been harshly welcomed to the Sun Belt this season as the Lady Owls have compiled a 5-23 record, after winning the Atlantic Sun last season. Florida Atlantic

See Lady Raiders, 7

# Do you want to know a secret?

I'm going to tell you guys a secret but you have to promise not to tell anyone. I mean it, you have to pinky-swear on this. Are you listening? Good. I want to share something you might not have heard during Customs, something I know you didn't find out on Pitchforkmedia.com, and I'm pretty sure you couldn't have learned from a Victor Furious flyer.

MT has a basketball team. Well, actually we have two. Shhhh. I know. I don't want the wrong people to find out, but wait. There's more. One of them is actually really, really good. No offense to the men's squad, but the women are playing the best season in MT history.

The Lady Raiders have quietly amassed a record breaking winning streak and earned themselves a No. 17 ranking in the AP Coaches Poll for a second consecutive week.

The weird thing is, even though not a lot of people are talking about this team – *The Tennessean* isn't even pretending to cover them – there is an underground network of fans that have braved the weather and the free admission to put MT's attendance levels in the top 25 in the nation.

Its weird isn't it? It's like we have our own Fight Club. I figured the paper is the safest way to get this message out – since only my mom and two of my professors read this column anyways – to a select few people.

anyways – to a select few people.

Do you like to yell at referees every single time they miss or make a call? Do you have an abundance of blue face paint? Could you heckle the 19-year-old point guard of a school with a losing record as if the very game depended on it? Even if the Raiders were winning by 35 points? Have you ever tried to get treatment for March Madness? Do you live anywhere near Murfreesboro and have any plans on Saturday?

If so, we want you to join our club. We put a lot of thought into and we've decided you have

what it takes. There is only one problem. If you want to be a part of this thing you need to hurry. You only have one chance left and it is this Saturday at the Murphy Center.

I am Sportacus

J. Owen Shipley

Staff Columnist

The final home game of the season should be a wild affair. It may be the last game, but a big win would help a lot with momentum in the post season. From week one everyone knew that this season would be all about March. It's been 90 days since the Lady Raiders lost a game. Only undefeated Duke, who just beat Maryland 69-57 over the weekend, has a longer winning streak at 28.

Saturday will also be the last regular season game for MT's vaunted senior class. Watching Chrissy Givens and Krystle Horton pass the mantle to junior Amber Holt, should be exciting enough to pack the Glass House, but if it takes more than that to pry you away from Facebook, consider these numbers.

MT has won the last 30 games in a row at home versus Sun Belt foes. MT started the season with a top five RPI and even though some of the top teams on their schedule have stumbled a bit, their strength of schedule still ranks them in the top 20 nationally. Chrissy Givens will move into second place on the games played list when she hits the court on Saturday. Head Coach Rick Insell just broke the record for best record in first two years as coach with the win against FIU last week. This squad was also the first in MT history to beat a Top 10 opponent when they defeated Georgia behind a 21point performance by Georgia native Amber Holt.

Most importantly, despite all the numbers and the fact that MT has dominated the Sun Belt, this team is not happy with their performance as of late. Everyone from Insell down has talked consistently about needing to take things to

# Chrissy Givens: Lady Raiders' defensive machine

By Cody Gibson

Staff Writer

This season has been a dream come true for Chrissy Givens. She has received numerous accolades before and during the season, including the preseason Sun Belt player of the year, three-time player of the week and named to the Wade Award Watch List.

Her season average of 21 points, three steals, five assists and five rebounds is astonishing given the fact she is also shooting over 51 percent from the field.

Givens has been characterized by a number of coaches as "the best defensive player they have ever seen."

Coach Rick Insell calls her one of the best people he has ever coached. Even with all of the success, Givens said that this season, the team has even exceeded her expectations.

"What we've done so far is something I never expected us to do," she said. "I think the best moments are yet to come. We want to break all of the records we can along the way. Everything that has happened has been like a dream. Me and

Krystle [Horton] have been like Cinderella and have been here since the beginning."

Givens, as well as the team, will not be satisfied unless they can complete their ultimate, regular-season goal of going undefeated and winning the Sun Belt Conference tournament.

The undefeated season would break the record for conference wins by Louisiana Tech.

This is just one of the many records the Lady Raiders look to smash this season. Givens believes these goals have helped keep the team hungry.

"We want to go undefeated during the regular season," Givens said. "We want to win the tournament. That's another goal. Then, next thing is to definitely get to the sweet sixteen. For some reason, I have this great feeling we are going to the Final Four, and we are going to be Cinderellas this season."

Along with her strong play on the court Givens has been a good role model for her team off the court. Givens graduated with a 3.89 grade point average and



Photo by Jay Richardson | Staff Photographer | Senior Chrissy Givens' coaches call her the best defensive player they have ever seen.

See Givens, 7

See Sportacus, 7

### Track competes in Sun Belt Championships

By Brendon Henson

Staff Writer

The Middle Tennessee track team heads into the 2007 Sun Conference Indoor Championships in Jonesboro, Ark. this Saturday.

Arkansas State will be hosting the meet, with 17 men's and women's events scheduled over two days. This is the final indoor meet of the season before the NCAA Indoor Championships in March.

The championships will feature other Sun Belt teams including Troy (women only), South Alabama, UALR, North Texas, Arkansas-Little Rock, Florida International, Florida (women Atlantic only), Louisiana-Lafavette, Louisiana-Monroe and Western Kentucky.

Last year, the MT men's team took first place in the championships and hopes to repeat this year. They have won five of the past six indoor titles.

On the women's side, Western Kentucky finished first last year for their first ever SBC indoor title. Senior Orlando Reid, the 200m champ from last year is set to defend his title.

Senior thrower James Thomas also hopes to close out the Indoor season on a good note. "This is my last indoor meet. It sucks, it just sucks. I want to keep throwing," Thomas said. "I am hoping for a 1-and-1 in the shot and weight throw."

Thomas is currently ranked first in the conference in the weight throw and second in the shot put. For him, the championships are merely another meet. "It's no different, I pretty much go out there and do it. I treat it just like a regular meet."

Assistant coach Laetitia Florimond is confident in the team's abilities.

"I believe 100 percent that they will do well," Florimond said. "We're pretty good in jumps and throws. The girls have gotten their act together. For the guys, it's really open and we've got a very, very good chance of winning."

The MT runners face some serious competition from schools such as South Alabama. "South Alabama is really strong running, distance Florimond said. "We're a little weaker in that area, so we'll really have to perform."

Freshman MeLyn Thompson will be participating in her first Conference Belt Championships this Saturday.

For her, it's an opportunity to improve for the outdoor season. "I can always get better, but I think I'm well prepared for the meet," Thompson said. "I actually prefer the outdoor season, but this is a chance to get a little more experience."

Thompson is currently ranked second in the conference in the shot put.

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Fellow freshman Britney Cox is coming off a lat injury and hopes to be ready for the Championships. "Rehab was tough, I was sore and it was painful, but I really can't complain too much," Cox said.. "As far as my lat goes I'm at about 100 percent, and at about 60 to 70 percent with my throws. I've got a really good chance of posting first in the weight throw."

Cox is first in the Sun Belt in the weight throw and third in the shot put.

The remaining Blue Raiders that did not have a chance to get into the NCAA Indoor Championships.

Will have another chance to enter t at the NCAA Last Chance Meet in Ames, Iowa.

Middle Tennessee wraps up their Indoor season with the Sun Belt Championships this weekend in Jonesboro, Ark. on Feb. 24-25 the meet starts at 10 a.m.

### Lady Raiders: Final game

#### Continued from 7

double-digits in scoring, Mistoria Brown.

Brown also leads the team in rebounding with 5.5 per game. Florida Atlantic has struggled shooting the ball this sea-

son hitting only 35 percent from the field. Defensively, the Lady Owls aren't much better as they

allowed 45 percent shooting. in the nation in attendance at

The Blue Raiders are No. 27 4,061 after 14 home games this season.

Middle Tennessee is first in the SBC in attendance with Western Kentucky with 2,252 and Arkansas State 1,880. The record-setting mark of 10,010 for the game against Maryland at the beginning of the season.

The game with Tennessee brought in 12,363 to watch MT receive their 3rd loss of the season for the Lady Raiders.

Not a lot has gone right for Florida Atlantic this season, and Middle Tennessee isn't likely to do them any favors.

Tip-off for senior day is 3 p.m. on Feb. 24. •

### Givens: Defensive machine

#### Continued from 7

received her degree in criminal justice.

Right now, Givens is pursuing her Masters of Sociology and hopes someday to have a job with the government.

Givens said she believes her future is going to be basketball first, then she is going to use her degree to the fullest.

"I'm working to get my master's," she said. "I want to play in the WNBA, and I want to play overseas. I feel like I can take care of it on the court. I got about six or seven more years of basketball left in me. Then, I'm going to come back and finish that degree. Hopefully, I can go work in the FBI somewhere."

Givens clearly has a bright future as she is projected to be a first rounder in the upcoming WNBA draft.

Givens was voted First Team Academic All-District IV by ESPN Magazine

She is well in line for a number of post-season awards, and in the coming weeks for Givens to collect.

### Sportacus: Lady Raiders rock

#### Continued from 7

the next level and tighten up their game in several areas. If they can do that, MT should be able to make a pretty exciting run in the NCAA tournament this year.

So come on down and watch the final game on Saturday. But please, please don't tell anyone. I don't want the secret

to get out. It's too much fun for those of us that know. Lets just enjoy our little secret for as long as we can because by this time next year EVERYONE will know who the Lady Raiders are.

J. Owen Shipley is a senior(ish) English Major at MT and can be reached at Myspace.com/lamsportacus.



Students can find the survey by clicking on the "Free Pizza! Complete Survey" Survey

link on the MTSU Homepage. The survey expires February 28th at 4:00 p.m.

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Continued from last column

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Continued to next column

Continued from last column

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# MT baseball falls in double-header to JSU

By Colby George

Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee had a tough Sunday afternoon against Jacksonville State, losing both games of the double header. Middle lost the first game 7-6, and later lost the second game 3-0.

Jacksonville State snapped a five-game losing streak against MT by winning both games on

The Raiders held strong behind two home runs and three RBI's by Adam Warren. The Raiders then lost the game by a wild throw to first by shortstop Matt Ray, which allowed Brett Smith of the Gamecocks to score all the way from second to win

Tyler Copeland started the game pitching three full innings and allowing five earned runs. Brett Reilley added four innings with two strikeouts, three walks and no earned runs.

The Raiders were also helped at the plate by Zach Barrett and Myles Ervin, both of which went three for four and scored a run.

Besides Ervin Barrett, Warren Kendrick was the

only other Blue Raider with a hit. JSU scored in the second, third, fourth, sixth and

The Blue Raiders then had their second game of the double header end with a 3-0 loss.

The Raiders were only able to have five batters reach base successfully while in the early game they

MT started Nick Marrs who pitched four innings with two strikeouts and three earned runs.

Josh Anderson then came in and pitched two scoreless innings.

Neither team had hot bats, but Jacksonville State was able to put a rally together in the second inning where they scored two runs off of Brian Piazza's double to left center.

ISU then scored one more run in the fourth on a RBI single by second-baseman Bert Smith.

Jacksonville State started with Ben Tootle, who pitched five shutout innings with two strikeouts and no walks. Clark Jinks then came in relief for two more shutout innings with three strikeouts and no walks to earn the save.

The Blue Raiders were starting to put it together at the end of the seventh, but because of the double header, only seven innings were played, which caused them to come up short.

MT lost to Samford Tuesday and Wednesday. Visit www.mtsusidelines.com for game recaps. ◆

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